

Minutes for the Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families

Thursday, 1 February 2018

Government Office Building 6731 Gateway Drive Columbia, Maryland

ATTENDANCE: Jonathan Branch, Craig Porterfield, Bob Lowell, Howard Mooney, Wanda Riddle, J. Greg Jolissaint, Mile Blum, Janice Agazio, Allison Buckley, Lisa Terry GUESTS: Robert Pelletier, Tom Glenn, Gordon MacPhee (Joint Military Council), Basil (Bud) Deming, Yale Stenzler, Vikki Garcia (from Congressman John Sarbanes's office)

Howard called the meeting to order at 1900. Minutes from the last meeting were called to be approved. Mr. Stenzler had correction to the minutes which Lisa will update. Minutes were approved.

Next commission meeting dates are March 1, April 10 (Annual Veterans and Military Families Resource Fair), May 3 and June 7. Wanda updated the commission on her meeting with county representatives regarding CB-8-2018. Wanda also met with John Sheldon who helped revamp the language for the bill. Howard testified to the council about the commission's support of the bill and written testimony was also submitted.

Lisa updated the commission regarding about the Veteran's Monument status. The 501c3 has been filed with CPA assistance. There will be a fundraiser for the monument with a comedy show at Hysteria Brewery on March 4. VIP prices are available as well as sponsorships.

The commission annual report has also been submitted. March 7 is Military Night for Oakland Mills HS JROTC. The commission will present the community plaque to the school.

An update regarding the resource fair was given by Lisa and Howard. It will be held at the North Laurel Community Center on April 10 from 5-8pm. Requirements needed are color guard, refreshments, AV support. We will have a kick-off speaker, breakout sessions and invited guests. The county executive is expected to be there.

Bob Lowell talked about wills for veterans as one of the possible break out sessions. A discussion followed. Bob also gave an update on the Veteran's Court initiative. Bob read an email from Judge Brooks which was not supportive of a Veterans Court in Howard County at this time.

An update on the veteran's parking initiative was given by Lisa. The restaurant that Ed had identified is getting resistance from their landlord. Lisa discussed getting support of the initiative from the Chamber of Commerce.

Howard asked that if anyone knows of anything that is happening for Memorial Day that the commission should be involved with, please let him know. Howard also asked about any support requirements for the 2018 Ellicott City Veteran's Day Parade. Wanda gave an update.

Yale gave an update on the clothing drive. Ed said planning for additional Vet-in-School presentations is ongoing. A discussion followed.

Craig volunteered to create a slide show for the Resource Fair and will create a DropBox for pictures related to commission activities.

Guests who were in attendance introduced themselves to the commission. Tom mentioned that there will be Vietnam War celebrations on 29 and 30 March.

The meeting was adjourned by Howard at 1958

Submitted by Jonathan K. Branch